

From: Lora Friedenthal
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:15am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The main purpose of the suit against Microsoft seemed, to me, to be about bundling. Yet, the settlement reached does nothing about this, Microsoft's most powerful method to crush competition. WindowsXP has more bundled software than any other Windows release. They make their instant messenger seem like it is part of the operating system. Their browser already feels that it is. Windows has the OS market, there's little chance that that will change, but by bundling every possible internet related application into the operating system, they stamp out any competition. The applications force themselves on the user, and if you sign up for one, you've magically got accounts everywhere. Internet related applications was quite possibly the only software market aside from games that Microsoft didn't already dominate, and now they dominate that as well. The real solution, it seemed to me, would have been to break the company into three different companies and make for some real competition out there. Let one part make the operating system, one make the business applications, and one deal with MSN and it's related internet applications. While I could see including IE with the system so that people could go out and find other software, it's the bundling of everything at once that seals the doom of everything without an MS logo. I was hoping for some drastic and harsh treatment of a company that tries in everyway to squash its competition, including underhanded and illegal means, and I just don't think this settlement goes far enough.

-Lora Friedenthal
86 Welisewitz Rd
Ringoes, NJ 08551